

**Essex Catholic Community**  
Discussion of Ministry Fairs  
December 2, 2019 7:00 PM  
Holy Family Parish Hall

**Report of Meeting**

**Parishioners Attending**

**HF/SL:** Linda Hemond, Dave Robideau, Tim Guziak

**St Pius X:** Deacon Gerry, Kevin Walker Lisa Rees, Kathy Brink

**1. Review of Ministry Fair Goals and Objectives**

- a. Our Evangelization goals are to support parishioners' personal faith development as well as reach out to others.
- b. Increasing the numbers of those involved in ministry may lead to enriching individual parishioners' practice of the principles of our Catholic faith.
- c. We will be able to get to know more people in our parish with whom to make social and spiritual connections.
- e. We will get new ideas and/or refresh or streamline current practices
- f. Hopefully, we will be able to engage our youth in more activities to help them stay connected to the parish.
- g. Incorporate introduction of involvement in Ministries with "welcoming process" for new parishioners.

**2. Description of Ministry Fair:** Generally, a Ministry Fair is held after a Mass where current members of a specific ministry, e.g., Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Greeters, Lectors, Music, will greet parishioners and describe the ministry, provide guidelines for the ministry including training and time expectations. Many ministries can require either a weekly commitment (as for our choirs) or monthly for example for Eucharistic Ministers or Ushers.

- a. A very important aspect is to be very welcoming to anyone who attends to become involved in a Ministry. If we do not need any more volunteers for a particular Ministry, we should not recruit for it!
- b. All social/social action/administrative groups like ALO, Bridge, Picnic, BBQ, Parish Council, etc., can be included for people to become acquainted with other parish members and church needs.
- c. It was suggested we group ministries by type, so several can be covered at one table and fewer people would be needed to staff the event.
- d. Commissioning of new ministry volunteers will continue to remind people of the involvement of others in the church and opportunities for themselves.

**3. Input from parishes about how it would work for them**

- a. We discussed starting out by only having a fair at one of our churches to see how it works out and the kind of response we get.
- b. Many thought serving food (a breakfast or dessert) would be important to attract folks, as well as perhaps raffle drawings
- c. Promoting the Ministry Fair in multiple ways from the pulpit, in the Pews (handouts explaining all ministry opportunities), on the website, in the Bulletin will be important. More use of social media!
- d. Include in the promotion that engagement fosters building a vibrant parish!

- e. We decided that parishes can decide when and how they want to set up their individual Fairs, but in coordination with all churches.
  - f. We want to include regular appreciation for existing ministry volunteers
  - g. We could designate a specific weekend for all ministries, or even a month doing a few ministries each week.
  - h. A fair could be integrated with other activities like at the lunch after Serve Our Neighbor, the Picnic, BBQ
  - i. Thought it would be good to have when the weather was nice!
- 4. Needs assessment:** What ministries need support? We will canvass all ministries to learn where the greatest needs are and if there are ministries people want to initiate.
- 5. Leadership and Next Steps:** The Synod Action Planning Team will continue to lead our Synod activities with the help of those who have come forward to assist as well as with our Parish Council members. Others always welcome! Our immediate Action Items are listed below.

**Action Items**

<b>Action Step</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1 List of all ministry leads	Kathy Brink Linda Hemond	Jan 8	Please contact us if you are one!!!
2 Welcoming Training	Tim Guziak		Contact diocese
3 Work with staff re: Welcoming Process	AP Team, Josh Margaret, Maria, Father, Deacon, Ministry leads	Jan 8 Mar 6	Discuss process: web, in person, follow up, forms, brochures, etc Implement March 1
4 Preparing ministry profiles for distribution to parishioners/post on website	Lisa Rees with support from Ministry leads	Feb 7	Draft for major ministries
5 Prepare Ministry sign up sheet	Kathy Brink	Jan 8	
6 Review outcomes of meetings at Parish Council meetings	Father Charlie, Dave Robideau, Gary Diminick	Jan 15	Joint meeting in January?

P.S. Due dates are negotiable. Wanted to start somewhere!